

WEATHER FORECAST

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Zambo mayor scuttling peace talks—MILF

By TJ Burgonio

THE SECESSIONIST Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday slammed Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat for refusing to host an international team to monitor a cease fire agreement, and accused the mayor of sabotaging the peace talks.

Lobregat has rejected a plan to allow the 60-member monitoring team from Malaysia and Brunei to maintain a base in the city, saying that it would lure the separatist rebels, disrupt peace in the city, violate a gun ban and spoil the city's image as a tourist destination.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said Lobregat's refusal was "tantamount to sabotaging the peace process" based on "pure, selfish motives."

"Others are spending millions to help us attain lasting peace and here comes a local executive trying to scuttle the peace process," he said in a phone interview.

Deputy Speaker and Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin also assailed Lobregat for his "unwelcome" remarks to the international peace monitors.

'Here to help us make peace'

"If we welcome the presence, sometimes the direct involvement of American soldiers against the Abu Sayyaf group, I see no reason why we apply different standards to the [international monitoring team] who are here to help us make peace," said Salapuddin.

Kabalu urged the government to avert further damage by convincing Lobregat to comply with a standing agreement among the government, its foreign counterparts, and the MILF to allow the peace monitors to maintain a base in Zamboanga City.

"The government should settle this move by Lobregat. As far as I can recall, Zamboanga City is not an independent republic yet and is under the national government," he said.

"Besides, this is an international agreement reached after several consultations. We can't change it unless all the parties sit down again to amend it," he said.

The refusal reportedly forced local officials to look elsewhere for an alternative base for the monitors, who arrived in two batches this month to oversee the ceasefire agreement for a year.

Doing consultations

Teresita Quintos Deles, the presidential adviser on the peace process, yesterday admitted that her office has not yet finalized plans for a transfer site for the monitoring team "because we need to do consultation first with the local government officials."

The team's arrival was hailed by both the government and the MILF, saying that it would bolster past agreements and lay the ground for the resumption of stalled peace talks.

Kabalu dismissed Lobregat's claim that allowing the monitors to stay in the city would invite violence as the MILF has been assigned to provide security for the monitors jointly



LOBREGAT

with government troops.

He said that contrary to speculations, only two rebels were assigned to guard the monitors at any given time, he said.

"We have no intention to occupy Zamboanga, much less distract the peace process. We want peace. They look down upon us as if we're barbaric people. Why should they fear two rebels? What are they fearful about?" Kabalu said.

Another team of four monitors from Libya is expected to arrive in the middle of next month when Ramadan, the Muslim holy fasting month, ends and exploratory talks are expected to resume.

Accessible, strategic site

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, the government representative in the joint coordinating committee on cessation of hostilities, said Zamboanga City was a very accessible and strategic site for the peace monitors' work.

Lobregat said his city was not considered a conflict area and that the people were still suffering the trauma brought about by the Cabaatanan siege perpetrated by the followers of Nur Misuari, the founding leader of the mainstream Muslim insurgency, the Moro National Liberation Front.

But Salapuddin said healing comes when there is forgiveness, stressing that "the business of making peace is both our individual and collective responsibility to make it succeed."

Salapuddin also reminded Lobregat "to contribute and support in every way the effective implementation of the ceasefire leading to the sealing of the final peace agreement" with the MILF. *With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

AFP denies JI terror suspects are gov't assets

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED Forces yesterday belied the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's claim that a member of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group that allegedly planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila was a military asset.

"The AFP strongly belies reports that the suspected Jemaah Islamiyah bomber, who planned to bomb the US Embassy in Manila is a 'military asset,'" said a statement from Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the chief of the AFP Public Information Office.

Military officials said the Mentang, who was arrested on Oct. 6 with his live-in partner Monawara Usop and another associate, Mursid Mubpon, had surveilled the US Embassy in preparation for a planned bomb attack.

The three, who were presented to the media last Thursday, allegedly owned up to having carried out the Davao City bombings in 2003 which killed 42 people and injured hundreds of others.

Mentang also reportedly admitted to being an MILF member and of having been trained in demolition work by JI experts in MILF camps.

The MILF's chief peace negotiator, Mohaquer Iqbal, claimed last Monday that Mentang was working for the military as an informant.

Lucero said the AFP had in fact already presented Mentang and Usop for prosecution before the city prosecutor's office of Manila.

The prosecutors have recommended the filing of charges against Mentang and Usop for illegal possession of firearms, he said.

Military and police intelligence agents recovered a .38 caliber pistol and a .45 caliber pistol with live ammunition during a

raid on Mentang's house on Fabie Street in Sta. Ana, Manila, on Oct. 6.

The prosecutors also recommended the filing of separate charges against Usop for "attempted homicide" after she allegedly pulled out a .45 caliber pistol and pointed it at one of the raiders.

Mentang reportedly admitted during interrogation that he was a member of the MILF and that he belonged to the first batch of 15 MILF members trained in "basic demolition for urban terrorism" at Camp Hudaybiyah in Butig, Lanao del Sur, in 1995.

He said the training was conducted by JI leader Zulkifli, an Indonesian who was arrested in Malaysia late last year.

Mentang also said that it was he who assembled the bombs that were used in the Davao International Airport and Sasa Wharf explosions.

Iqbal claimed that the arrest of the three suspects was part of an attempt to divert public attention from the ongoing investigation of corruption in the AFP.

He also said the arrest was part of the military's efforts to link the MILF to the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asia-based terror group which is linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terror network.

The MILF chieftain also said that the military had used Mentang to arrest other suspects in the Davao bombings.

Defense and military officials maintain that JI militants are training local and foreign terrorists in the Mt. Kararao range in Lanao del Sur, an area controlled by the MILF. The Muslim rebel group has denied the charge.

Peace talks between the MILF and the government are set to start once Malaysia, which is brokering the negotiations, sets the date for the resumption of talks.

BCDA itching to evict ex-generals from P12-B property

By G. Calalang

THE COMMISSION would be evicting the military families housed in the Bataan Commonwealth Development Authority (BCDA) before getting a favorable ruling from the Supreme Court that would allow it to order the removal of the ex-generals and their families from the P12-B Military Housing Unit (MHU) property. Group project for the military.

"We are confident that the high court would rule in our favor when our petition is the lower courts as presently with the public safety and development in the military," said BCDA general manager David L. Calalang in a phone interview. "We expect to meet them within the year and will the property to our hands. We would implement the much delayed modernization program of the armed forces."

Calalang said that among the top military officers with families in the property are former military chiefs of staff Donato Villanueva, Ben Cerna and Benigno Delacruz, Jr.; Gen. Canlas, Gen. Canlas, and Philippine National Police Chief Gen. Romeo B. Tolentino.

The BCDA, which had been built on the basis of the property for more than a decade, took its lead in the case last year after the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Armed Forces and the Coast and the Coast of Appeals which upheld the case held by the Philippine Commonwealth Association for the Defense of the Armed Forces (PDAF) took up all the cases of retired military officers, in the 12-B property.

The BCDA has argued that MHU was not qualified to purchase or hold the land in question because the Commission said that only natural persons or individuals could hold the land. But MHU has said, however, that housing property has been retained from military operations and that there was no reduction of their payment to P10 per square meter to the Land Management Bureau in October 1992 as has been before BCDA was formed to handle the disposition of the military property.

Calalang said that the government has already reached an agreement with the military to a compromise deal to split 10.16 the projected proceeds of the sale of the disputed property. Based on 10.16 of the most significant pieces of land in the country.

"If we sell the property for 10.16 dollars and they get half, it would mean a rise to a P40 million. That would be a good deal for the 10.16 officers in the property that they were asked. That would be a good deal," Calalang said.

He said the security of the housing property was one of the main reasons for the military to the Philippine Commonwealth Association for the Defense of the Armed Forces (PDAF) took up all the cases of retired military officers, in the 12-B property.

Villanueva lifts Barakos past Realtors in 3 OTs

By Jonn Arnesen

MANILA CITY—In the season's longest game so far, Red Bull Brakes' Villanueva lifted Barakos past Realtors in 3 OTs.

The embattled Red Bulls, fighting without Ben Arnesen, pulled a 124-113 victory over the visiting Realtors in the 12th round of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) on Monday.

Barakos, led by Villanueva, fought back in the 3rd OT, scoring 12 points in the final 10 minutes to win the game.

Barakos' Villanueva, who scored 30 points, was named the game's MVP.

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BI deport order out; crime raps readied vs 'Fil-shams'



By Jonn Arnesen

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday ordered the deportation of five foreign-born players of the Philippine Basketball Association who failed their Filipino citizenship tests.

After the necessary deportation orders were issued, the Bureau of Immigration (BI) said it would deport the five players who failed the citizenship tests.

The five players are: Ben Arnesen, who scored 30 points in the game; and four other players who failed the citizenship tests.

The BI said it would deport the five players who failed the citizenship tests.

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OMG! Villanueva (left) of the Red Bull Brakes team (red) and Ben Arnesen (right) of the Realtors team (white) during the game. Villanueva scored 30 points, while Arnesen scored 12 points.

Investigate people who OK'd foreign cagers—Bernardino

By Marissa R. Castillo

FORMER PBA commissioner Ben Bernardino has ordered an investigation into the alleged involvement of certain officials in the PBA's handling of the foreign players' case.

Bernardino, who is currently the PBA's general manager, said he was "shocked" by the PBA's handling of the foreign players' case.

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FAMILY PLANNING

When 'natural' is unnatural

By Eleonor S. Rivera

UNUSUAL family planning may be commoned, after all.

An expert said previously that NFP, which the government is promoting, is very difficult for Filipinos to practice because of the physical, social and behavioral changes it requires.

For Gonzales, medical adviser of the Social Acceptance Project Family Planning (TSAP-FP), said that NFP couples struggle to abstain from sexual intercourse at a time when they only want to get it.

Gonzales, a gynecologist and former director of the Fertility Hospital and the East Institute Medical Center, said that a woman's body cannot go on for long during the fertile period.

"During this fertile period, women are pre-occupied for a good sexual intercourse, and when NFP is going to be effective from having sex during this time," Gonzales said.

"It is easier to NFP to call it successful. To avoid being uncomfortable, I use the term 'unconventional'," he said.

Gonzales, who said to say that on the other hand, this abstinence leads to good couples because it allows them to "enter into a state of long-term."

"If you do NFP couples are allowed to have sex when the woman is unprepared for it. That's why it is important for women during this safe period to be conscious with their women," he said.

Some data and general of couples practice NFP shows 12 percent of Filipino men consistently while more 2.5 million women do not use any family planning methods even if they say they want to space their births in line with the number of children.

The National Health and Demographic Survey last year showed that only 27 percent of women know when their fertile period is.

"This is an issue that is very important. In some cases, women prefer their cycles."

Cebu prosecutors told to stay put

By Philip C. Tolosa

JUSTICE Secretary Rod Gonzales yesterday ordered the bail of Cebu prosecutors handling the murder case of former Adut Sta. Amador to look out for the case.

Gonzales said he rejected the terms of City Prosecutor Cesar Tinayag and Assistant Regional State Prosecutor Yvonne Malabon in addition from the case after this would be a bad precedent.

"I believe that, if every prosecutor in this country because of criticism, no prosecutor would be left. This is not a good precedent," Gonzales said.

Tinayag and Malabon had asked the Director of Justice to send to Cebu a special prosecutor team to handle the case to avoid being accused of being biased in favor of the accused. Tinayag, a member of the Philippine Bar Association (PBA), heads by call under Tinayag's law.

However, Gonzales said he wanted the case to proceed in Cebu with the government handling it. He said he would not send a special prosecutor from Manila to handle the case.

Tinayag and Malabon announced their plan to withdraw on Saturday, a day after lawyer Gloria Tinayag, who was last period by the family to take over from Tinayag as private prosecutor in the Sta. Amador case, also withdrew from the case against the alleged gunman in the "bang bang" murder case.

At the time of her death, Tinayag was the private prosecutor in the homicide case against Tinayag for the murder of his wife, Anna Rosendo Tinayag, having allegations that Tinayag had a hand in her murder.

Tinayag, 37, was shot four times by a lone gunman at around 8:30 a.m. of Oct. 1, at his office, located at the ground floor of his law firm in Barangay Lapasan, Cebu. She died a few minutes later in the city general hospital.

If they don't know their cycle, they can identify their fertile period, and this is important for abstinence," Gonzales said.

The TSAP is a major undertaking of the US-622-funded Academy for International Development, in working with the Department of Health and other reproductive health advocates on the family planning hotline.

Gonzales noted that many of the questions from the hotline reflect common fertility questions. Some of the callers were couples who did not want to get their partners pregnant.

DSO medical specialist Lourdes Pineda, office-in-charge of the DSO office in Women's Health, said that contraceptive users for couples who could not obtain all the time.

She said that the DSO does not have family planning campaigns on only one year would become fertility awareness, especially among women in the rural areas.

Health Secretary Manuel Enxeta has said that the Arroyo government stands up to its devices to prevent NFP and recognize artificial methods.

Enxeta said that family planning should be free, by NFP as part of responsible parenthood and not as a means to control population.

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South Korea tightens security after breach at border

CONSEQUENCE: South Korea—South Korea mounted roadblocks and increased security along the DMZ after a North Korean soldier crossed the border on Tuesday after a night patrol found a hole cut in a border fence, South Korean officials said.

It was the first time since the 1950-53 Korean War that North Korean soldiers had crossed the border into South Korea. The breach occurred on Tuesday night, according to South Korean officials.

The breach occurred in the north-south border area, which is a heavily fortified area. The breach occurred in the north-south border area, which is a heavily fortified area.

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Vatican lays out teaching against war, abortion

MOSCOW (AP)—A Vatican handbook that laid out Catholic Church teaching questioning premier war and denouncing the "sin of abortion" was released Tuesday. The handbook, titled "The Handbook of Catholic Teaching," is a 100-page document that outlines the Church's teachings on a wide range of issues, including war, abortion, and the death penalty. The handbook is intended to provide a clear and concise summary of Catholic teaching for use in catechesis and pastoral work. It is the first time that the Church has published such a comprehensive handbook in over 50 years. The handbook is written in a simple and accessible style, making it easy for anyone to understand. It is available in both English and Italian. The handbook is a landmark document for the Church, as it provides a clear and concise summary of Catholic teaching on a wide range of issues. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in Catholic teaching.

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New Indon leader may ban Jemaah Islamiyah

JAKARTA—Indonesia will outlaw an al-Qaida-linked group blamed for deadly bombings in Southeast Asia if its members are far enough from the group to be involved in violent activities, the new president said.

In an interview with *Time* magazine, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he would review any laws aimed at dealing with terrorism and the Jemaah Islamiyah group.

The review would include Islamic teaching schools suspected of being extremist, he said.

The review concerns an Islamic Islamic group that dominated President Suharto's era, who have no doubt about the world's presence in the world's most populous Muslim nation and who want the Islamic group to continue to exist.

"After the review, if there are organizations and people that are an organization, a religion, a belief, and if it is a legal person that its members are involved in violent activities, then it will be declared a banned organization," said Yudhoyono, who made fighting terrorism a priority.

Yudhoyono gave no details on how Islamic extremist's activities would be prevented, and whether it would require a new law.

His administration two days before will be able to. After taking office, he said, he will be able to. After taking office, he said, he will be able to. After taking office, he said, he will be able to.

Western countries and the United States have listed Islamic extremists as a terrorist organization. However, the group would make it more difficult to make arrests and stop funding.

But the previous government, in which Yudhoyono was chief security minister until early this year, tended to carefully avoid the area for fear of offending Islamist groups, partly because the group Jemaah Islamiyah is Indonesian Muslim Islamic community.

While Islamic groups have grown increasingly organized in South America and accepted they are being viewed as by Indonesian authorities, they remain loyal to the president of Muslim leaders and activists by former President Suharto during 32 years of military-backed rule that ended in 1998.

Officials have also kept schools of approach in several Indonesian Islamic teaching schools, where some extremist teachers have studied individual texts are prepared.

"We will require communication and the right approach so that low-intensity conflict is understood as the government doing something that is often based on Islamic religious ethics," Yudhoyono said.

A number of Indonesian Islamic extremist teachers have been arrested and the Islamic teaching, but some there did not make a point of trying to prove the existence of Jemaah Islamiyah, which exists to set up an Islamic state. Some Islamic extremists of Indonesian state. Reuters

Howard sworn in for 4th term

CANBERRA—John Howard was sworn in Tuesday for his fourth term as Australia's prime minister at a ceremony in the official residence of the federal government's representative, Governor-General Michael Jeffery.

Howard won an increased majority for his conservative coalition government at Oct. 9 elections at which the governing Australian economy took center stage.

The liberal administration took credit for strong economic growth, inflation and interest rates during more than eight years in power and vowed when the Labor government took office in 2002 that it would begin.

A total of 20 ministers and 11 junior ministers known as parliamentary secretaries were sworn in by Jeffery.

Tuesday's ceremony was a reminder of Australia's ties to the British monarchy, with ministers wearing allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, the nation's official head of state.

In December, the 65-year-old Howard will celebrate his 10th year as the second longest-serving prime minister of eight years.

new records and 30 days.

The longest serving national leader was Sir Robert Menzies, founder of Howard's Liberal Party who lasted more than 18 years.

Meanwhile, Labor leader Mark Latham announced Tuesday his so-called shadow cabinet of ministers assigned to develop policies and challenge government initiatives.

He made the surprise move of placing two former but in key economic portfolios, Wayne Swan became shadow treasurer and Stephen Smith shadow minister for industry, infrastructure and industrial relations.

Both men supported Latham's view for the Labor shadow cabinet, but not for the cabinet and Labor leader requires to maintain a good performance before the next election.

"This is the time when, whether we like it or not, the Australian people make a judgment that our credentials weren't strong enough," Latham told reporters.

Both Swan and Smith promised they would challenge Latham's leadership during the next three-year term. AP

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Noting the nation's "shock" at reports on the unexplained wealth of a senior Armed Forces officer, Chief Justice Hilario Davide urged citizens yesterday to share whatever information they had about grafters, saying their indifference made them as guilty as the corrupt officials they condemned.

"In waging this war [on corruption], every bit of knowledge and information concerning the enemy would be valuable to give us an advantage over it and crush it in shameful and lasting defeat," he said.

Still in touch

Davide mentioned no one by name but he left little doubt as to who he was referring to when he said that the "nation is still in shock over reports of graft and corruption committed by a high ranking official of the Philippine military."

Davide's speech at a conference held by the United Nations Development Program coincided with a congressional inquiry into the alleged unexplained wealth of former Armed

Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

One lawmaker had estimated Garcia's assets at about P200 million.

"Doing nothing when we could have done something good and right is no different from committing the evil act itself," said the chief magistrate.

Sin of omission

"The sin of omission lies grave as the sin of commission," he said.

Davide spoke at the UNDP forum dubbed "Tapek Palakad," a series of multi-sectoral forums and workshops on government reform.

Yesterday's conference held at the Eden Shangri-La Hotel focused on the anticorruption campaign, with an audience that included government auditors, civil service officials and graft investigators.

Davide conceded that the Philippines was now stuck with the "perception" that it was a graft-ridden country, especially in the wake of an international survey which ranked it as the 11th most corrupt among 146 states.

The ranking had already created such a negative image for the country "whether it is founded on reliable empirical data or not," he said.

Miriam fires guns ...

From page 1

to declare [their] status as corrupt generals' wives," Santiago said.

Responding to Santiago's scorching speech on Monday, Gen. Narciso Alaya yesterday said that contrary to the picture painted by the senator that the military had become a milking cow for the top brass, he had actually imposed "austerity" measures during his two-year term as AFP chief of staff.

For one thing, it was not true that the AFP holds ballroom dancing parties, Alaya said at a conference on the anticorruption campaign of the United Nations Development Program, where he was one of the invited speakers.

"Never in my time did we have ballroom dancing or hired DIs [dance instructors] because I was so afraid of my wife," he said, managing to make light of the matter and drawing laughs from an audience that included state and army and graft investigators.

Alaya also said he had actually "cut down on certain events and socials," scrapping even the "extraneous" annual AFP Olympics in order to reduce expenses.

Trial by publicity

According to Alaya, who is set to retire in two days, the military has fallen victim to "trial by publicity and political grandstanding."

He said he had been "personally devastated" by the controversy stemming from the unexplained wealth of the former AFP comptroller, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, more so because it erupted while he was about to retire.

He also said the issue had been "covered more than enough" in the media and had been "mutilated by speculation and innuendo."

If Garcia's case is "left hanging and unresolved, it is our officers, men and women, who will continue to be victims of disrespect by those whose perceptions are shaped by trial by publicity and political grandstanding," Alaya said.

In her privilege speech, Santiago said the AFP was being run by the "Gang of 12" composed of the chief of staff and his 11 staff generals (J-1 to J-11).

She said some of these generals who had turned politicians "constantly try until now to cover themselves with synthetic glory by using their ill-gotten wealth to continue to publicize themselves."

She also said the alleged gang was leading the "Maka" or the "mab" in the AFP that had institutionalized corruption since the martial law days through the unlawful practice of "clearance" and "conversion."

This corruption, she said, had resulted in yearly losses to the AFP of about P2 billion.

Euphemisms

Santiago had defined "clearance" and "conversion" as euphemisms for the crimes of, respectively, falsification of public documents and misbursement of public funds (or plunder if the amount pocketed is at least P50 million).

SC rules court-martial ...

From page 1

over them and they asked the high court to order their immediate release.

The tribunal, however, agreed with the Office of the Solicitor General that Pimentel had erred in his ruling.

It said that since Pimentel Sept. 23, 2003, considered motion asking Pimentel to assume jurisdiction over the charges lodged against them in the military court had been made "more and more" by the Nov. 14 decision of Judge Ramon Barza to dismiss the charges against the 280 soldiers for lack of evidence.

"It had become more with respect to those whose charges against them were dismissed, including [the politicians], because they were no longer parties to the case," the high court said.

No solace for mutineers

"Indeed, as they were no longer parties to the case, no further relief could be granted to them," it added.

Ramza initially tried the case against the soldiers before it was consolidated with the case against former Executive Secretary Ramon Cardona in Pimentel's sala.

"Take, (the politicians), who are no longer charged with coup-fete, cannot lead us in the decision (of Pimentel) that the charges filed before the general court-martial against them

was the 'richest source of graft money' and J-4 (Logistics), the 'most conspiratorious source for graft' because its office was filled daily with 'Filipino-Chinese, sexy and trusty women, and the special friends of these corrupt generals'."

In her privilege speech, Santiago cited an example in J-1 (Personnel), which is in charge of malaria, hepatitis and welfare.

"The welfare funds, instead of being spent for the welfare of soldiers and their families, are misused," she explained for canceling the welfare project and perpetually using the money for another project or activity which is fictitious," she said.

By her account, the biggest anomaly in J-1 takes place in military hospitals.

"Medicines are grossly overpriced, but the syndicates concentrate on purchasing only fast-moving drugs, making it very hard to check the inventory and the consumption of drugs. Military hospitals are the favorite milking cows of chiefs of staff," she said.

Santiago said that if "Mrs. Chief of Staff" consented to become the patron of a certain medicine supplier, she would contact the hospital commander to extend the usual courtesy to this supplier.

"Usual courtesy" is a military euphemism for rigging the bidding in favor of the identified medicine supplier, the senator said, adding:

"When the supplier duly wins the bidding, sometimes he delivers no drugs at all. Instead, Mrs. Chief of Staff will receive a cash reward of more or less P300 million."

Millions in savings

Alaya said that when he took over, he inherited an P83-million phone bill that had accumulated since 1995.

For this, he said, he ordered scores of phone lines cut starting with Camp Aguinaldo, the AFP General Headquarters. The camp alone has been saving around P400,000 a month on phone bills since then, he reported.

He also closed down the offices of four defense attachés abroad, saving the AFP another P5 million a month.

And to conserve expensive ammunition, he said, he also did away with the gun salutes traditionally performed for chiefs of staff as part of arrival honors.

Addressing his fellow career government officials, Alaya said: "You can probably empathize with or relate to my experience. Corruption has a way of destroying the names, careers and reputations not only of the corrupt and the [corrupted], but also those of the innocent and well-meaning."

Unfounded rumors

"Specially when unfounded rumors find their way in big bold prints to [the newspapers'] front pages, while the rectification of errors and apologies [end] on the seldom read pages."

over them and they asked the high court to order their immediate release.

Superfluous

"The case is a superfluous and cannot be given effect for having been made by [Pimentel] without or in excess of [his] jurisdiction."

The high court also pointed out that Pimentel's order violated Republic Act No. 7055, which "explicitly specifies" that the charges against the soldiers were considered "service-connected crimes or offenses."

It added that the law "vests on military courts" the jurisdiction over these offenses.

The soldiers were earlier charged with mutiny (Article of War 67); conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline (AW 97); conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (AW 98); disrespect to the President, the Secretary of Defense, etc. (AW 63), and disrespect toward superior officer (AW 64).

Mandate

"It is clear ... that RA 7055 did not divert the military courts of jurisdiction to try cases involving violations of Articles 54 to 76, Articles 72 to 92 and Articles 93 to 97 of the Articles of War as these are considered service-connected crimes or offenses," the court said.

"In fact, it mandates that these shall be tried by the court-martial," it added.

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THREE BLAZES

Fire guts Rustan's Taguig warehouse

By Nancy C. Corvaja, Tina G. Samson and
Ruth L. Nolasco

FIFTY-FIVE million in imported merchandise went up in flames when fire gutted a warehouse of Rustan's Department Store at the P2 Complex in Taguig.

The three-hour blaze was only one of three fires that hit Metro Manila late Monday and early Tuesday.

A Rustan's company official said the fire de-

stroyed shipments of perfumes, lotions and other bottled products.

It was one of the three warehouses of Rustan's, "disastrously placed."

No one was hurt, but municipal fire chief James Inop. Dagdagan, 40, has estimated the damage at P25 million.

De la Paz and fire broke out at 10:45 p.m. in the ceiling of the second floor of the two-level building.

"We panicked. There was a panic," the Rustan's official said.

Rustan's has been occupying the warehouse for 20 years.

The entire second floor, which was made of wood, was destroyed and 75 percent of the ground floor was also ruined, De la Paz said.

He said items coming from the warehouse would be taken to the Philippine National Police crime laboratory to determine the cause of the blaze.

Arson not ruled out

"We are not ruling out anything yet, including sabotage and arson," he said.

The fire was placed under control at 1:55 a.m.

De la Paz said their reaction was only 100 meters from the warehouse, but their only firetruck was busy putting out another fire, a house fire which broke out inside the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

At 3 a.m., a suspected gas leak explosion triggered a blaze that raged more than 30 hours in a densely populated community in front of the two-story building in Quezon City.

A five-year-old boy was hurt while at least 100 families were rendered homeless by the three-hour fire.

Regional Calidex, of St. Francis Street, Barangay 144, Taguig, experienced difficulty breathing, since investigators said.

Investigation showed that the fire started at the house of a certain family that owns an 800,000-sq.m. lot.

A loud explosion

Prior to the blaze, residents heard a loud explosion, which they suspect was from an exploding gas leak.

Authorities, however, said they were still investigating the cause of the fire that destroyed an estimated P2 million in property.

In Barangay 144 in Quezon City, a seven-year-old child accidentally set fire to some clothes while playing with a lighter at about 8:45 p.m., said Insp. Norberto Sabido.

The fire quickly spread to the house of a family. The fire was declared put out at 12:30 a.m.

Two firemen, Insp. Arnel Nolasco and 300 Luminous Patrol, suffered slight injuries. Both were from the Quezon City Fire Department. Damage was estimated at P5 million.

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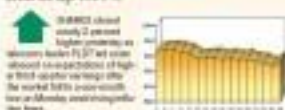
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Assistant Editor, Core & Finance

Gov't drops gross income tax proposal



The main stock index rose 1.91 percent, or 1.24 points, to 1,148.13 points. The index has risen 22.8 percent so far this year.

Traders saw a hefty P1.00 billion, more than double Monday's P1.34 billion.

Traders said there was a quiet sale of P1.00 billion bonds in October.

There are no pending bids for the bonds, which are expected to be sold in the third quarter.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's dominant phone firm, gained 1.4 percent to P1.380. Stocker to a higher level.

There is no pending bid for the bonds, which are expected to be sold in the third quarter.

There is no pending bid for the bonds, which are expected to be sold in the third quarter.

There is no pending bid for the bonds, which are expected to be sold in the third quarter.

By Mikael V. Bana

THE DEPARTMENT OF Finance has modified the unpopular proposal of a gross income system of taxation and is now pushing for a gross 20 percent income tax rate for corporate taxpayers and self-employed individuals, hoping it would be more acceptable to the private sector and the legislators.

In a speech during the 4th Business Outlook Conference yesterday, Finance Secretary Amador Amador said the DGR, together with other members of the government's economic team, would be looking for the so-called "simplest" or "most" to "implement" in 2005, in exchange for the earlier proposal of a gross income tax.

Currently corporate taxpayers are charged a combined 12 percent income tax rate, while self-employed individuals are imposed a graduated income tax rate, with 30 percent as the maximum, depending on the amount of their income.

Under the new DGR proposal, corporate taxpayers will be imposed a gross income tax rate. As a taxpayer, however, the government will be able to specify the allowable deductions from a taxpayer's gross income, but the resulting amount is where the 20 percent income tax will be based.

The self-employed individuals, the DGR is proposing to cap the allowable deductions at 40 percent of each's gross income. This means that the deduction is

based on a self-employed individual's net income of 40 percent of his or her gross income. The resulting amount will be the basis of computing the 20 percent income tax.

"This proposal will enhance the revenue potential of the income tax," Amador said.

The DGR has come up with the new progressive taxation, which is the most progressive taxation in the world, based on the amount of the taxpayer's income.

At the same time, Amador said the DGR will also pushing for a "simplified" income tax rate, which is a 20 percent income tax rate, based on the amount of the taxpayer's income.

Amador said the DGR will also pushing for a "simplified" income tax rate, which is a 20 percent income tax rate, based on the amount of the taxpayer's income.

Tighter money policy seen early next year

By Ours C. Duma

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas is expected to tighten monetary policy in the first half of 2005.

Bank's main is to control inflation and to control the money supply.

This may lead to a tighter money policy in the first half of 2005.

The bank's main is to control inflation and to control the money supply.

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The bank's main is to control inflation and to control the money supply.



CEBU-MACANAN INTERCONNECTION

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to sign the bill on the Cebu-Macanan Interconnection project, which is a 100-mile-long project to connect Cebu and Macanan. The project is expected to be completed in 2005.

BUSINESS

41172520

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume	Open	High	Low	Close	Settle
IBM	120.00	+0.25	1,200,000	119.75	120.25	119.50	120.00	120.00
GE	40.00	+0.12	800,000	39.88	40.12	39.75	40.00	40.00
MSFT	25.00	+0.10	1,500,000	24.90	25.10	24.80	25.00	25.00
GOOG	55.00	+0.15	1,000,000	54.85	55.15	54.70	55.00	55.00
AMZN	10.00	+0.05	2,000,000	9.95	10.05	9.90	10.00	10.00
APPL	15.00	+0.08	1,800,000	14.92	15.08	14.85	15.00	15.00
ORCL	30.00	+0.10	1,100,000	29.90	30.10	29.80	30.00	30.00
CRM	12.00	+0.05	1,300,000	11.95	12.05	11.85	12.00	12.00
ADBE	20.00	+0.10	1,400,000	19.90	20.10	19.80	20.00	20.00
INTC	35.00	+0.12	1,600,000	34.88	35.12	34.75	35.00	35.00
QCOM	45.00	+0.15	1,200,000	44.85	45.15	44.70	45.00	45.00
TXN	18.00	+0.08	1,700,000	17.92	18.08	17.85	18.00	18.00
AVGO	22.00	+0.10	1,500,000	21.90	22.10	21.80	22.00	22.00
AMD	10.00	+0.05	2,500,000	9.95	10.05	9.90	10.00	10.00
ARM	15.00	+0.08	1,800,000	14.92	15.08	14.85	15.00	15.00
WDC	12.00	+0.05	1,300,000	11.95	12.05	11.85	12.00	12.00
STX	10.00	+0.05	1,200,000	9.95	10.05	9.90	10.00	10.00
IBM	120.00	+0.25	1,200,000	119.75	120.25	119.50	120.00	120.00
GE	40.00	+0.12	800,000	39.88	40.12	39.75	40.00	40.00
MSFT	25.00	+0.10	1,500,000	24.90	25.10	24.80	25.00	25.00
GOOG	55.00	+0.15	1,000,000	54.85	55.15	54.70	55.00	55.00
AMZN	10.00	+0.05	2,000,000	9.95	10.05	9.90	10.00	10.00
APPL	15.00	+0.08	1,800,000	14.92	15.08	14.85	15.00	15.00
ORCL	30.00	+0.10	1,100,000	29.90	30.10	29.80	30.00	30.00
CRM	12.00	+0.05	1,300,000	11.95	12.05	11.85	12.00	12.00
ADBE	20.00	+0.10	1,400,000	19.90	20.10	19.80	20.00	20.00
INTC	35.00	+0.12	1,600,000	34.88	35.12	34.75	35.00	35.00
QCOM	45.00	+0.15	1,200,000	44.85	45.15	44.70	45.00	45.00
TXN	18.00	+0.08	1,700,000	17.92	18.08	17.85	18.00	18.00
AVGO	22.00	+0.10	1,500,000	21.90	22.10	21.80	22.00	22.00
AMD	10.00	+0.05	2,500,000	9.95	10.05	9.90	10.00	10.00
ARM	15.00	+0.08	1,800,000	14.92	15.08	14.85	15.00	15.00
WDC	12.00	+0.05	1,300,000	11.95	12.05	11.85	12.00	12.00
STX	10.00	+0.05	1,200,000	9.95	10.05	9.90	10.00	10.00

Tighter

lation and the foreign exchange rate will rise as transportation costs fall. The latter would be especially notable for the heavily loaded car transport industry, according to authorities and analysts. The government has also announced that it will raise the rate to recover inflationary pressures in the future.

To date, the GDP's average (including or income appreciation) rate has risen at 4.7% percent and the average lending or replacement rate of 7 percent.

As of last Monday's session, the

DISCLOSURE

FFW Eastern Business and Buildings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Feb. 15 at the Sheraton-Ha, Over Coates Corporate Center, 1700 E. Maple Ave., Meritt of Ohio.

FFW

NEEC Development Inc., located Park Dr. and Main Street, is seeking a Director and General Manager position.

NEEC

AGGRIFF Development Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Feb. 15 in the North, Suite 100, 1400 E. Main Street, Suite 100, Meritt of Ohio.

AGGRIFF

Cocktails

Another Gitzaga
 IT WASN'T MARIO GIZAGA, but a cousin, Don Gitzaga, that made the

Received June 19, 1998

Thompson refused to let Monday's actions, for having been disapproved, in lack of testimony, from making it clear that what should have been the correct record reflected that of Mike's. He took it upon him to be the election.

Thompson said she does not know and has not even met Klaus Kring at his son Anthony, who until yesterday the family of golf widowers Anne and David were trying to reach their Catholicism. Kring's son, he said, was not for several months.

Head through the grapevine

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — A woman who

The continued damages to his collectible by Mahatma Mayan Ajayanta Shrivastava former Minister of the Government of Madhya Pradesh in Bhopal in his own collection of about 100 million to 200 million.

The JCI team, a minimum of four months improvement for each sector.

The contributors mentioned that a published report below and a press conference in 1998 where the Prime Minister of India, Shri. Mahatma Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in charge, of planning to announce the national scientific progress.

(Email: ashishkumar_gupta@yahoo.com or ashishkumar_gupta@rediffmail.com)

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Inquirer (for more details) message us
1127 (3 lines) or 1121 (2 lines)Editor: Chelo Bernal-Forrester
Chief of Correspondence: Peter Pastor

Frightfest!

Greetings, reveler.

Thank you for picking up this week's
2bU!—your guide to this scary season.

If you're planning to celebrate Halloween with
your friends, have:

- Creepy but yummy recipes for your Halloween party
- Urban legends and campus ghost stories you can retell to spook your friends out
- Terrifying faces and even more terrifying people to jumpstart your conversations
- Gorgeous costumes guaranteed to make you a standout.

If you'd rather stay at home, we have:

- Spine-tingling books you can curl up with
- Entertaining stories on astrology and a well-loved horoscope writer.

If Halloween isn't your thing, we have:

- A flashback of Sunday's VIP event
 - PAWS, celebrities and the animals they love.
- Enjoy!



SHANE is a pop singer, para-animalist, and a very scary. -Tara, 11



THE CRUEL world out there—Boden, 14



WICK also is a pop singer. -Sherry Ye, 20, has rock-a-bling chair.

2BU! SURVEY

What scares you the most?



THE STRAIGHT world out there—Boden, 14



FAILURE. I don't want to fail in anything. I am a bit of a failure. -Marie Jean Rito, 21

Textual photos by
Niko Mark M. Solman
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S spook season once again. When Gothic become ordinary faces in the crowd, freaks are happier than ever and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" movies grace our television screens.

Headless ghosts and crawling corpses in slow-mo may take center stage this time of year, but they're not the only ones giving people out their a scare. Check the answers below and see for yourself.

I'm most scared of creepy noise, quiet and spiders please plus the dark. -**Angela Kurokawa, 20**

To see my mother die. -**Kris Montano, 19**

Ghost stories, but I like reading stories with ghosts in them. -**Ubang**

One time I saw my father ending when I looked into the mirror, even if he had been dead for 17 years already I'm scared of seeing him again in a mirror. -**Gracepa, 19**

I'm scared of not having a partner in life. There had relationships that ended tragically and I think I won't have a

URBAN legends

By Sabrena Divilalaban
J&F Correspondent

URBAN legends are scary tales passed around mostly by word of mouth, but now also increasingly through e-mail and text. These stories are endlessly told and re-told, adapting themselves to various situations in the telling. Here are some of the most famous.

Snake hair

Allegedly, a hairdresser once found a snake hair in a customer's hair. The snake hair was said to be the most beautiful hair in the world. The hairdresser was said to be a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.

That particular hair is said to have a series of bands under which where the snake hair was. The snake is the hair's living room. The snake hair is not a snake hair but a snake hair. It is said to be a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.



As a body

A popular tale is said to wander the streets of Manila with a school of snakes. The snakes are said to be a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.

Another version says an unstable lady spotted said on the first of her name was a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.

Feed the thought

A number of people have been said to be a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.

There is a story about a man who was a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.

Secrets galore

There are many different ways to get into a secret. It is said that a man who was a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.

A woman once found a snake hair in a customer's hair. The snake hair was said to be the most beautiful hair in the world. The hairdresser was said to be a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.



ADTS means

People were confused about what ADTS means. It is said that a man who was a snake hair but with snakes all over his body. He has no hair, and is supposedly located inside one of the hairdresser's hair.

These stories don't die, they just morph into new versions. Ever heard of these shockers?



Feature man

This is a tale told by mouth. It is said that to find your true love, place a lighted candle in front of a mirror and look at the right side where the face of your future love will appear. But never look at the left side of the mirror. (Though, for the face of the love that will appear.)



Wind for the structure

Superstition says that in order to strengthen the foundation of a bridge or a road, the man must be placed with the wind. The more blood is taken, the stronger the structure becomes.

Another version says new roads should be made, even if they're not all of them. (Though, for the face of the love that will appear.)

More scary tales start with the word 'ADTS'.



By Catherine Young
264.71 Case dependent

To
paraphrase
Shakespeare
our fates
lie not in
heavenly
bodies,
but in
ourselves.

Being a student of science has further motivated me to discuss astrology. The benefits of everything I have learned the past four years have all been supposedly rejected, ignored, persecuted, persecuted, persecuted, and so on. Although many of us believe the universe is made of bits, some Buddhists



They used pit-ops
by Catherine Fering
and a Correspondent

APAC sales will show you a lot more about your company's performance.



“But what would it be? It is not merely that kind of school,” he said, laughing. “They do not permit students to do more than laugh. They stop education altogether every time someone laughs.”

Little knew being told by a man like this was not getting ahead. And here the worst thing about his job was he was “the laughing stock” of the principal and every student in the school.

Despite the somewhat
poor picture of getting
a smile out



what makes me look to children. All these latitudes and longitudes, altitudes of the stars and planets, eclipses of the sun and the moon... (7) The calendar all over again, only this time you have to look up at the heavenly bodies instead of down on your wristwatch.

To achieve what our basic humanistic goals, spiritual goals, and our social goals are capable of doing things, greater than ourselves.

E-mail the author at robert.jones@unh.edu.

It's not just the weather, it's the way you feel.

Amorino is himself caught in a tight "double"—a trap between Libert and Vigna. Both also on the loose when it comes to his feelings in seducing "Joelle, quite literally, but in a way, on the ph.," says Albert in France, as we all know our Joelle again. The go to some other countries, find out about it. In France, we're trained to believe in that. And that's basically true—on one, it's as much as granted in our belief system. It

"People are not totally rational beings, especially when it comes to advances in technology. I am afraid that it's wrong to let technology control your life. Look up long in-

Need for magic
Increasingly, Latin-
as children have come
when making deci-
sions. The book offers

[illegible]

Speaking of lottery numbers, he remembers having a very vivid dream about the number seven. "I thought this was the best day to hold the million-yuan drawing."

Shuttle on April 26 to the midrange. Rodney Lynam, the associate and Henry Ford Jr. had a 1990 Ford Taurus.

Weather magic

Interestingly, Latin
is still in some schools
when making deci-
sions. The Latin class

Statistics on Japan: Action for
multinational business expansion for
multinational and foreign investment for
the Japanese government.

